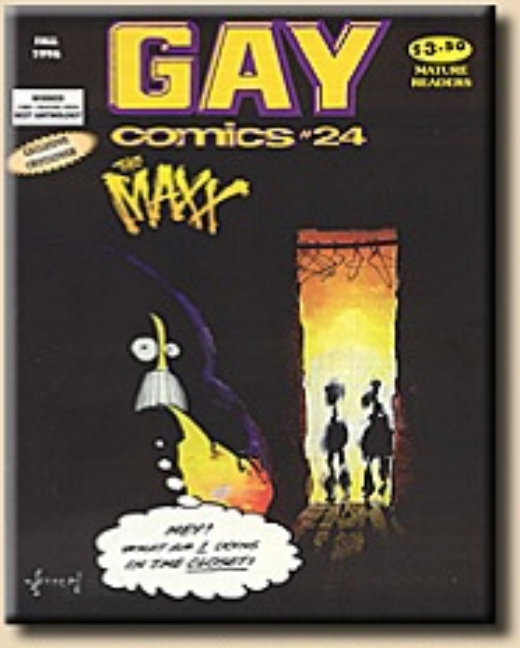

Sir Real's

UNDERGROUND COMIX CLASSIX

Gay Comics #24

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Stories:

1 - Maxx In The Closet
2 - From The Editor
3 - Contents
4 - The Maxx: Out Here On My Own
9 - Immola: Burn-Out
16 - That Was Then... This Is Now
20 - Rejection or A Butch Bummer
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40 - Ping Pong
42 - Plug-O-Rama
43 - Contributors
44 - Out On The Roof

Artists:

Sam Kieth - 1,
Andy Mangels - 2(t), 4-8(s), 27-32(s)
Daerick Gross, Sr. - 4-8(a)
Joan Hilty - 9-15, 44
Marc Lynx - 16-19(s)
John Dennis - 16-19(a)
Leanne Franson - 20-21
Jennifer Camper - 24-25(s)
Ivan Velez, Jr. - 24-25(a)
J.D. March - 26
Brandon McKinney - 27-32(a)
Paige Braddock - 33-35
Stephanie Pennington - 36-39
Steve Matuszak - 40-41

Comments:

n/a

FALL
1996

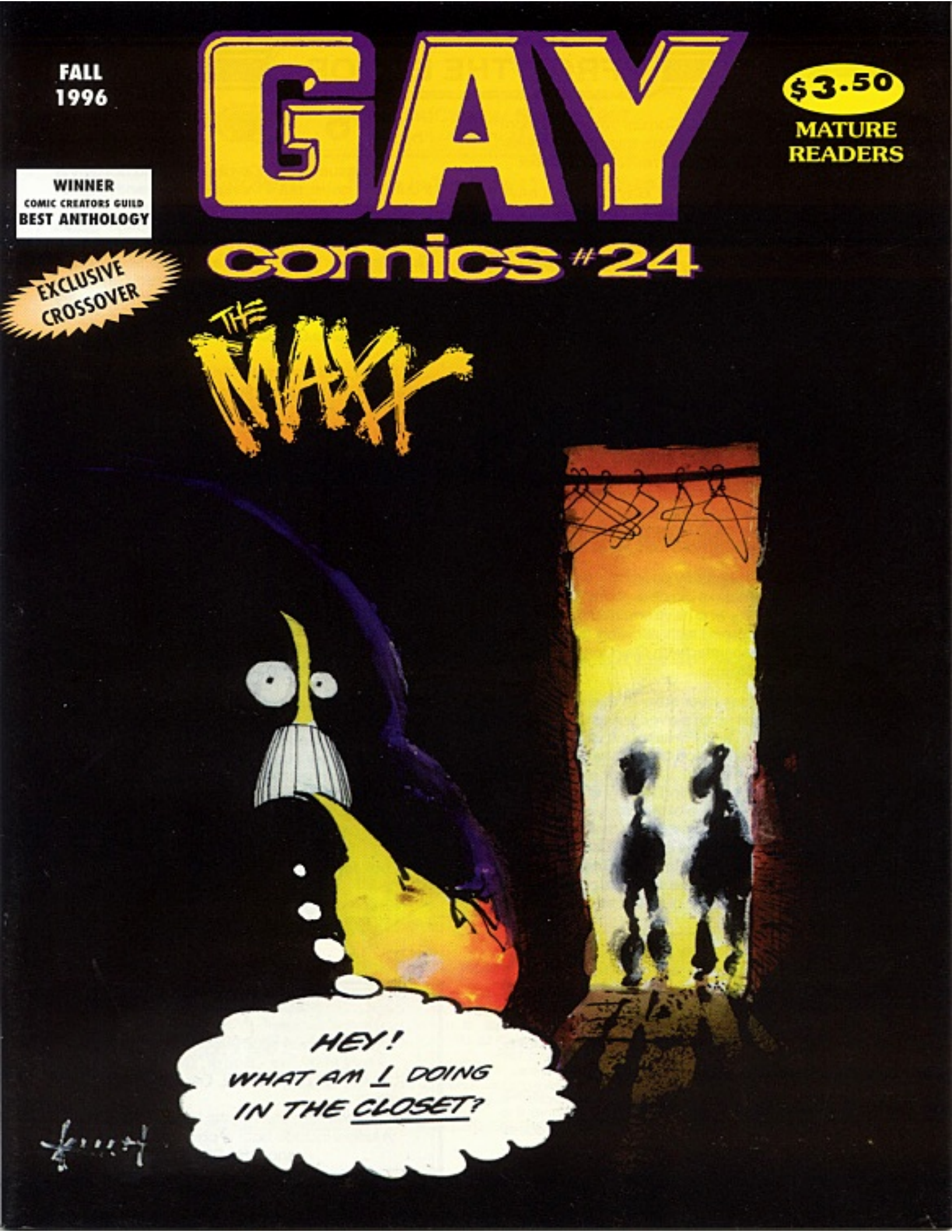
GAY comics #24

$3.50
MATURE READERS

WINNER
COMIC CREATORS GUILD
BEST ANTHOLOGY

EXCLUSIVE CROSSOVER

THE MAXX



FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome back! *Gay Comics* makes its most mainstream move forward with this issue's cross-over story with Sam Kieth's creation, *The Maxx*.

Since I became editor of *Gay Comics*, I have attempted to make the book more a part of the mainstream and accessible to a wider audience. Usually when someone in the entertainment industry says that, it means they're "dumbing it down," to the lowest common denominator. That's not what I've done, however. Rather, I've tried to bring on board special creators -- "stars" of the comic world if you will -- to contribute to our pages.

Early on, I got flack for that move. People said I was bringing in straight people to *Gay Comics*. I countered that I was not the first editor to do so. The cover to the first *Gay Comix* was by Rand Holmes, a man married to a woman. Later contributors were also straight, bisexual, or unidentified.

People said I was taking work away from gay and lesbian creators. I countered that because I was doing the series quarterly rather than once-yearly, I was providing more work for all cartoonists.

I've never allowed any straight -- or "unidentified" -- creator to make a big deal about their sexual preference, and any who have contributed have not been overly concerned with allowing their names and work to be associated with *Gay Comics*. Which brings us to Sam Kieth.

The Maxx cross-over story in this issue is the largest mainstream cross-over we've done. *The Maxx* is on MTV, and Paramount is planning a feature film, not to mention there's the best-selling comic series from Image. Since the first time I asked him about contributing to *Gay Comics*, Sam Kieth has been supportive of the cross-over, and it's only because of time commitments that he's unable to provide the full story and art. Sam is straight, but he understands the need for *Gay Comics*, and is supportive of the goals of the series: to provide good comic entertainment that gay and straight people can both enjoy.

Because of *The Maxx* story, this issue of *Gay Comics* will probably be seen and bought by a substantial amount of new readers. To those newcomers, I welcome you, and hope you'll check out some of our back issues (and future issues) for work by some of the best cartoonists you may have never heard of. . . plus many you have.

And for those of you who are *Gay Comics* regulars, but have never tried *The Maxx*, give it a shot. While certainly one of the strangest success stories in recent years, the series is always guaranteed to entertain.

✪ ✪ ✪

Next issue is *Gay Comics* #25, and not only is it our 25th issue, but it marks our sixteenth year of publishing! Will it be special? You betcha. Remember those days of square-bound 80-page giants from DC? Welcome them back for one issue, from *Gay Comics*. We're still finalizing particulars, but you can expect the 80-page giant-sized *Gay Comics* to feature at least one page by almost every creator that has ever appeared in the pages of *Gay Comix* and *Gay Comics* !

So far, the *confirmed* lineup includes a cover by Craig Hamilton, plus interior pages by Tim Barela, Donna Barr, Alison Bechdel, Anina Bennett, Bruce Billings, Bloobird, Paige Braddock, Rick Campbell, Jennifer Camper, Burton Clarke, Malachy Covey, Mike Curtis, Demian, John Dennis, Diane DiMassa, Catherine Doherty, Donelan, Sean Doran, Kurt Erichsen, Leslie Ewing, J.A. Fludd, Julie Franki, Leanne Franson, Vaughn Frick, Michael Goldberg, Roberta Gregory, Daerick Gross, Paul Guinan, Andy Hartzell, Joan Hilty, Jeff Jacklin, David Kelly, Robert Kirby, Kris Kovick, Jeffrey Krell, Julia Lacquement, Stephen Lowther, Marc Lynx, John Macy, Beck Main, JD March, Lee Marrs, Sean Martin, Steve Matuszak, Brandon McKinney, Jerry Mills, Andrea Natalie, Stephanie Pennington, Milo Poulson, Trina Robbins, P. Craig Russell, David Sexton, Stan Shaw, Terrie Smith, Noreen Stevens, Howard Stangroom, TO Sylvester, Jackie Urbanovic, Ivan Velez, Jr., and Dave Young. Letters are out to the rest of the cartoonists, so more contributions are sure to come! All this, plus new pages and commentary by founding editor Howard Cruse, second editor Robert Triptow, founding publisher Denis Kitchen, and current publisher Bob Ross!

Look for *Gay Comics* #25 late in 1996.

Keep Loving!

Andy Mangels

SUBMISSIONS

Send *Gay Comics* submissions and letters to :
Andy Mangels - Editor, Gay Comics
PO Box 3226, Portland, OR, 97208-3226

Submissions responses may take a ***long*** time.
Always include both a **phone number** and a **SASE**

GAY COMICS #24: Spring 1997
edited by Andy Mangels

FRONT COVER ..... **"Maxx In The Closet"** by Sam Kieth

Inside Cover..... Editorial by Andy Mangels

Pg. 2-6 ..... **"The Maxx: Out Here On My Own"**
by Andy Mangels & Daerick Gross, Sr.

Pg. 7-13 ..... **"Immola: Burn-Out"**
by Joan Hilty

Pg. 14-17 ..... **"That Was Then. . . This Is Now"**
by Marc Lynx & John Dennis

Pg. 18-19 ..... **"Rejection" or "A Butch Bummer"**
by Leanne Franson

Pg. 22-23 ..... **"¡Sabado Gigante!"**
by Jennifer Camper & Ivan Velez, Jr.

Pg. 24 ..... **"Brigga Dune"**
by J.D. March

Pg. 25-30 ..... **"Pride: Retaliation Pt. 1"**
by Andy Mangels & Brandon McKinney

Pg. 31-33 ..... **"See Jane"**
by Paige Braddock

Pg. 34-37 ..... **"Three Cigarettes In An Ashtray"**
by Stephanie Pennington

Pg. 38-39 ..... **"Ping Pong"**
by Steve Matuszak

Pg. 40 ..... **Plug-O-Rama**

Inside Cover..... Contributors

BACK COVER ..... **"Out On The Roof"** by Joan Hilty

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Design by Andy Mangels Publications

YOU KNOW HOW SOMETIMES YOU'RE JUST OUT WANDERING AND YOU END UP SOMEPLACE YOU DIDN'T EXPECT TO?
THAT'S WHAT I DID TODAY.
THE DAY AFTER GRADUATION AND I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO.
WE ALL WANT TO HURRY AND FINISH SCHOOL, TO START ON OUR NEW LIVES FULL OF PROMISE AND A BRIGHT FUTURE.
OR SO THE VALEDICTORIANS SAY.
I DON'T SEE MUCH PROMISE OR ANY BRIGHT FUTURES, BUT MAYBE SOME MAGAZINE EDITORS WILL GET SOME TASTE.
WHEN I'M READY TO SUBMIT SOMETHING NEW, THAT IS.
SO, I ENDED UP HERE.
THE JONES STREET OVERPASS.
HAVEN'T BEEN HERE FOR THREE OR FOUR YEARS.
NOT SINCE I BROUGHT THE TALKING CLAY HERE.*
* THE MAXX #7.
I MET HIM HERE, TOO.
DAVE.
THE MAXX.
HE WAS JUST A BUM THEN. OR SO I THOUGHT.
PEOPLE ARE USUALLY SOMETHING DIFFERENT IF YOU SEE THEM UNDERNEATH AN OVERPASS.
HI.
HE DIDN'T SEE ME COMING... HOW DID HE KNOW?
SAW YOUR SHADOW.
OH. I WAS WONDERING.
I KNOW.
WHATCHA DOING OUT HERE?
JUST... BEING.
I COME BACK HERE SOMETIMES.
THE MAXX
OUT HERE ON MY OWN
Written by Andy Mangels
Illustrated by Dearick Gross, Sr.
Lettered by Mac Performa
THE MAXX AND SARA COURTESY OF SAM KIETH

WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO?
THE FAME SOUNDTRACK.
I REMEMBER THAT SHOW. IT'S IN RERUNS NOW.
NO. THIS IS THE MOVIE. CAME OUT IN 1980.
IT STARTED IRENE CARA'S CAREER.
OH.
I WAS BORN IN '80.
PROBABLY YOU, TOO, HUH?
I LISTEN TO THIS ONE SONG A LOT.
"OUT HERE ON MY OWN."
I USED TO COME HERE A LOT TO BE ON MY OWN, TOO.
I DIDN'T HAVE VERY MANY FRIENDS IN HIGH SCHOOL.
I MET THIS BUM ONE DAY, EXCEPT HE WASN'T REALLY A BUM. HE WAS JUST A GUY WHO THOUGHT HE WAS A BIG PURPLE SUPER-HERO NAMED THE MASK.
I LIKE PURPLE.
TURNED OUT HE WAS THE ANIMAL PROTECTOR OF THIS WOMAN, WHO WAS THIS FREELANCE SOCIAL WORKER WHO HAD REPRESSED ALL THESE HORRIBLE MEMORIES WHICH WERE TIED IN TO THIS OTHER DIMENSION CALLED THE OUTBACK, WHICH MY FATHER, WHO I THOUGHT HAD COMMITTED SUICIDE WHEN I WAS TOO YOUNG TO REMEMBER, HAD SOMEHOW LEARNED TO ACCESS, AND WAS USING TO POP BACK AND FORTH TO EARTH AS A MASS-MURDERER SERIAL RAPIST.
MY DAD GOT HIS HEAD CHOPPED OFF AND THEN HE PRETENDED HE WAS A TALKING PIECE OF CLAY IN THE ART DEPARTMENT AT ELMER A. CRAFT HIGH SCHOOL AND I BROUGHT HIM HERE TO THE UNDERPASS WHERE HE FED ME SOME CRAP ABOUT MY ANIMAL PROTECTOR AND THEN I TOOK HIM TO JULIE'S PLACE.
IT ALL SORTED ITSELF OUT EVENTUALLY.
OH.
I WENT TO ELMER CRAFT HIGH, TOO.
ARE YOU STILL IN SCHOOL? CAUSE YOU WEREN'T IN MY CLASS.
NO. I HAVEN'T GONE TO SCHOOL FOR A WHILE.
OKAY, SO THIS KID WAS AWFULLY MYSTERIOUS. REMINDED ME OF ME, ACTUALLY. SO, I DECIDED TO PRY.
WHY NOT?
THE OTHER KIDS WERE ALWAYS PICKING ON ME.
FIRST IT WAS BECAUSE I WAS SMART. I WAS A GRADE AHEAD, AND I JUST COULDN'T RELATE TO THE OTHER KIDS.
LATER, IT WAS BECAUSE I WAS INTO COMIC BOOKS AND STAR WARS STUFF.
THEY'D ALWAYS READ MY COMICS IN STUDY HALL, BUT THEY'D PICK ON ME FOR READING THEM AFTER CLASS.
DOUBLE STANDARDS.
BUT THAT WASN'T THE WORST.
THEY DIDN'T KNOW THE WORST.
NOBODY DID.

WHAT? BEING SMART AND INTO COMICS ISN'T BAD. I BET YOUR PARENTS WERE PROUD.
I WASN'T EVER THE KIND OF SON THEY WANTED. I THINK MY DAD SENSED THE TRUTH ABOUT ME LONG BEFORE MY MOM DID. EXCEPT ME COULD HIDE THE TRUTH FURTHER AWAY INSIDE.
THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT? LIKE YOU'RE GAY OR SOMETHING?
OH
LOOK, IT'S OKAY WITH ME.
YEAH, I CAN SEE THAT.
NO, REALLY. MY MOM IS LIKE THIS BIG HIPPIE CHICK, AND I GREW UP PARTLY IN A WOMEN'S LESBIAN COLLECTIVE.
WHAT, LIKE THERE'S A MEN'S LESBIAN COLLECTIVE?
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HEE HA HA
ANYHOW, THERE WERE TIMES I WONDERED IF I MIGHT BE A LESBIAN, TOO. I MEAN, GUYS CAN BE SUCH PRICKS.
NO OFFENSE.
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. BUT IT WASN'T EVER A PHASE FOR ME. I KNEW EVEN WHEN I WAS FOUR.
I WAS DIFFERENT. I KNEW MY ROMANTIC FEELINGS WERE FOR MEN, NOT GIRLS OR WOMEN, OR EVEN BOYS. MEN.
COME ON. HOW'D YOU EVEN KNOW ABOUT SEX THEN?
IT WASN'T ABOUT SEX. THOSE THOUGHTS DIDN'T COME TILL PUBERTY.
IT WAS ABOUT ATTRACTION AND AFFECTION AND . . . I NEVER WANTED TO LIKE WITH A WOMAN, OR HUG HER, OR KISS HER.
I THINK THAT'S WHY I WONDERED IF I WAS A DYKE. I DIDN'T WANT TO KISS ANOTHER GIRL.
I JUST LIKED BEING AROUND WOMEN BETTER. WELL, SOME WOMEN.
JULIE, MAINLY.

WHY DID YOU COME HERE?
TODAY?
NO, BACK THEN. YOU SAID TO "BE ON YOUR OWN." BUT WHY HERE?
I WAS PRETTY DEPRESSED ABOUT LIFE.
I WAS FAT. I HAD GLASSES AND ZITS, MY HAIR WAS A FRIZZ, NOBODY LIKED ME. PICK A REASON.
THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEBODY LONELY ON A BRIDGE.
WHO SAID THAT?
I DID.
IF SOMEBODY FAMOUS DIDN'T SAY IT, THEY PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE.
I THINK IT'S BECAUSE OF THE WATER. IT WOULD JUST SWALLOW YOU UP, TAKE ALL THE PROBLEMS AWAY, ENFOLD YOU...
PROTECT YOU.
NOT THIS WATER. EEWWW! YOU'D BE TRAPPED IN THE MUCK FOREVER.
YEAH. I GUESS SO.
SO, DID YOUR FAMILY FIND OUT?
I WROTE THEM A LETTER AND LEFT IT FOR THEM.
YOU LEFT HOME?
WHEN?
QUITE A WHILE AGO.
HAVE YOU TRIED TO TALK TO THEM?
NO. I WATCH THEM SOMETIMES, FROM PLACES WHERE THEY CAN'T SEE ME. THEY WERE SAD WHEN I LEFT, BUT I THINK THEY WERE RELIEVED TO BE RID OF ME.
I'M NO EMBARRASSMENT TO THE FAMILY NOW.
ARE YOU DOING OKAY?
I DON'T NEED MUCH. I FIND WHAT I NEED WHEN I NEED IT.
SOMETIMES I MISS LIFE...
NORMAL LIFE.
THAT PISSES ME OFF, YOU KNOW? HOW CAN THEY SAY YOU AREN'T "NORMAL?"
WHO ARE THEY TO DECIDE WHO'S NORMAL AND WHO'S NOT?
THEY'RE THE MAJORITY. IF THE GROUP DOESN'T LIKE YOU, THEY CUT YOU OUT.
THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE THEY'RE GOING TO CUT OUT. ALWAYS SOMEONE LESS NORMAL - OR MORE DIFFERENT - THAT THEY CAN PUSH THEIR OWN INADEQUACIES ON TO.
YEAH. IT'S CRAP.

LISTEN. I'VE GOT TO GET GOING. YOU WANT TO GET A BURGER WITH ME OR SOMETHING?
NO, BUT THANKS.
I GOTTA STAY HERE FOR A WHILE. LISTEN TO IRENE SING A LITTLE MORE.
YOU'RE NOT GONNA . . . DO ANYTHING ARE YOU?
WHAT CAN I DO THAT I HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE?
WELL, ANYWAY, MY NAME'S SABA WITHOUT THE "H." I DROPPED IT YESTERDAY, WHEN I GRADUATED.
I'M MIKAL. M-I-K-A-L.
I CHANGED THE SPELLING WHEN I LEFT.
GUESS WE BOTH CHANGED THE THINGS WE COULD, HUH?
I GUESS.
SO, I'LL SEE YOU AROUND, MAYBE?
MAYBE.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHY I TOLD HIM I HAD TO GO. I DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE TO GO.
I JUST FELT LIKE MAYBE HE HAD GOTTEN WHAT HE NEEDED TO FROM ME.
SOMEONE WHO JUST ACCEPTED HIM FOR WHAT HE WAS. NO CONDITIONS. NO THREATS.
WHAT'S THIS?
THE SOUNDTRACK TO FAME? LOOKS LIKE IT'S BEEN HERE. . .
. . FOREVER.
HOPE THE WATER WAS CLEANER FOR YOU BACK THEN, MIKAL.
THE END

EARLIER FRIDAY.
?
A WEDDING INVITE?
BUT WHO DO I KNOW THAT'S...
...
OH.
DAMN IT.
LINDA.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO WAIT FOR ME...
BURN-OUT

LATER FRIDAY.
YO! ASS WIPES!
LET'S GETTA MOVE ON BEFORE THE POLLS CLOSE!
GET THE DOCK CLEARED SO I CAN FRIGGIN' MOVE OUT AWREADY!
LOSERS.
LISSEN. AH GET CARSICK...
MIND IF AH DRIVE?

ALL KIDDIN' ASIDE... LET'S MAKE IT EASY. OUT OF THE TRUCK. NOW. GET OUT.
WHAT THE F--
OKAY. FINE. SORRY.
GHKN!
DAMMIT. AH DUNNO IF AH REMEMBER HOW TO DRIVE A STICK.
VROOM
ARNIE? LOOK OUT. LOOK OUT. SOMETHING'S WRONG...
AGH! THEY DIDN'T PAY OFF TH' PRECINCT! WE'RE BUSTED!
BLOW OUT THE TIRES!
BLOW THE WINDSHIELD!!
BAM BAM BAM
BAM BAM BAM
OH SURE, GIVE THE COPS ALL THE CREDIT! LIKE THEY AIN'T LOOKIN' THE OTHER WAY ALREADY!!
HEY!! I COULD USE SOME HELP HERE!!!

SHE'S NOT STOPPING! SHE'S GONNA RAM THE ROLL-UP DOOR!
NO SHE AIN'T. WE'RE GONNA KILL HER FIRS--
?
SH-SHE-SHE'S ON FIRE!!
I AIN'T BLIND!
BLAM BLAM
SSSSSS
EEYAARG!!
AGHH!!

SORRY, COULD YOU REPEAT THAT?
....
"THROW ME ACROSS THE GARAGE", YOU SAY?
CRASH
OKAY!
HEY, AH SAID "HELP", NOT "HOG"... HEH... NICE GOIN', IMMOLA! WE NAILED THIS LI'L BALLOT-SWAPPIN' SCHEME BUT GOOD!
HELL, YOU COULD BUY SIX ELECTIONS WITH TH' FAKES THEY GOT HERE...
MM HM.
ER... AH GUESS WE OUGHTA CALL TH' MEDIA BEFORE WE SPLIT, T'COVER ALL THE BASES...
I GUESS.
YOU'RE IN A MOOD.
I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.
LIKE AH SAID.

EARLY SATURDAY.
KOVIS? HI. WE'RE ALL DONE.
GOT TH' VOTES BACK IN. DIDN'T MAKE THE TEN O'CLOCK NEWS, BUT IT'LL LEAD EVERYTHING TOMORROW.
OK. AH'LL BE AT WORK IF YA NEED ME.
THANKS FOR LETTIN' ME CALL IN FROM YOUR PLACE. THE KITTY KLUB IS JUST TOO NOISY.
I'M OFF TA EARN TIPS. YOU BETTER TURN IN, DARLIN'!
GEEZ, AH KNOW WE'VE BEEN EXES FOR A WHILE... BUT USUALLY ME GETTIN' UNDRESSED STILL CHEERS YOU UP.
WHAT'S WITH YOU?
:SIGH: I GOT A WEDDING INVITE FROM LINDA.
LINDA? LINDA WHO?
OH WAIT, LINDA. I REMEMBER NOW. SHE WAS WITH SOMEONE AN' YOU WERE THE 'OTHER WOMAN.' HEE, HEE...
SHE AND HER NEW LOVER ARE GETTING HITCHED.
HER NEW LOVER? NOT AMY?
NO. NOT AMY.
NO, SHE FINALLY BROKE UP WITH AMY.
BUT SHE DIDN'T COME BACK TO ME.
I JUST... I JUST ALWAYS THOUGHT SHE WOULD COME BACK... I...
I WAS WAITING FOR HER...
OH, BABE...
WELL, LOOK. NOW YOU CAN GO TO THE CEREMONY AN' GET SOME CLOSURE.
Y'KNOW. STAY FRIENDS. WISH THEM WELL.
NO...

I CAN'T. I'M TOO PISSED OFF ABOUT IT.
VERY MATURE.
C'MON! PUT YOURSELF IN MY SHOES!
AH'M TRYIN'!
BUT YOU GOTTA TELL ME SOMETHIN' ...
DID SHE PROMISE TO COME BACK TO YOU?
BE HONEST.
NO.
THEN LET HER LIVE HER LIFE.
AN' GET ON WITH YOURS.
YEAH.
YEAH, YEAH. LOOK, FORGET SLEEP. COME HANG OUT WITH ME AT WORK F/R A WHILE.
CAN I AT LEAST GIVE A FAINTLY OBNOXIOUS WEDDING PRESENT?
LIKE AN ITCHY PLANT OR SOMETHING?
SHEESH! IF IT MAKES YA FEEL BETTER.
I BET YOU WISH YOU WORKED WITH LESS WHINY SUPER-CHICKS SOMETIMES ...
BUT, UM ...THANKS.
WELL, YOU KNOW ...
ALL IN A NIGHT'S WORK...
PUH-LEEZ...
END

BLEEP!
WHAT POSSESSED ME TO SET THE ALARM ON A WEEKEND?!
WAIT A SEC...
THIS ISN'T MY BEDROOM!
WHO THE *HECK* IS THIS?!?
DID I GET REALLY DRUNK LAST NIGHT OR SOMETHIN'?
-ER- IS SOMETHING WRONG, JEROD??
GOOD LORD! HOW OLD AM I??
please say "31"...
OK. "31".
THAT WAS THEN... THIS IS NOW
ideas & words by Marc Lynx
creations & drawings by JOHN DENNIS
FOR NEAL POZNER

....46?!
I CAN'T BE 46!
IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE?
IF THIS IS A JOKE THEN YOU ARE THE STRAIGHT MAN, NON?
AND YOU HAVE -NEVER- BEEN THE STRAIGHT MAN!
JUST WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
MICHEL COLBERT, IF YOU BELIEVE MY BUSINESS CARDS.
WHY DOES THIS BEGIN TO SOUND LIKE ONE BIT FROM ONE OF YOUR NOVELS?
NOVELS??
WHERE DID I GET THIS RING?
TIFFANY'S. THAT'S WHERE WE GOT THIS ONE, TOO!
LOOK! THIS ISN'T FUNNY!
JUST GIVE ME DIRECTIONS BACK TO CASTRO AND I'LL GET OUT OF HERE.
THE CASTRO?
GO TO J.F.K. AND CATCH A FLIGHT WEST!!
JFK... AIRPORT? NEW YORK?!?
...something is really WRONG here...

THIS ISN'T A JOKE, IS IT?
THIS ISN'T FROM ONE OF YOUR NOVELS, IS IT?
NO!
I WAS AFRAID OF THAT...
I'M CALLING DOROTHY...
#EUDRAMO
THIS IS DR. LINDEN.
MICHEL? IS SOMETHING WRONG?
-AND HE DOESN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING PAST THE MID-90'S.
HMMM.
HMM?
MM-HMM.
WHO IS THE PRESIDENT?
CLINTON.
WHICH ONE?!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHICH ONE?
SAY "AHHH."
WHO WON THE LAST SUPERBOWL?
THE 49ERS, COURSE!
IS HE RIGHT?
BEATS ME! I NEVER WATCHED FOOTBALL BACK THEN...
AMNESIA?? CAN YOU CURE IT?
YOU DON'T CALL THIS TRAUMATIC??
I'LL WRITE YOU A PRESCRIPTION FOR A BIG ROCK!
JUST KIDDING.
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING WRONG. THERE'S NO TRAUMA OR INJURY!!
TRAUMATIC? NO. DRAMATIC? YES!
THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO IS JUST GET ON WITH YOUR DAILY LIFE. SOMETHING MAY TRIGGER YOUR MEMORY.

"LEARN TO LIVE WITH IT!" SHE SAYS!
AND LEARN TO LIVE WITH ME!
WE'RE ... MARRIED.
CHURCH WEDDING AND ALL.
IT'S LEGAL? HAVE THINGS *REALLY* CHANGED THAT MUCH?
...THE POPULARITY OF VIDEOPHONES LED TO TALK TELEVISION...
... ADDED SEXUAL ORIENTATION TO THE LIST OF PROTECTED CLASSES...
... WAR IN THE SLAVIC NATIONS...
...AND WITH JESSE HELMS OUT OF THE PICTURE...
I NEED TO TAKE A SHOWER!
THE BATHROOM'S IN THE OTHER DIRECTION!
OH.
HOW COULD I HAVE LOST 15 YEARS? AND WHY DOES YESTERDAY... ...1995... SEEM SO CLEAR?
AND THIS "MICHEL". NICE FRENCH ACCENT, BUT—GOD—HE'S NOT MY TYPE! WHAT WOULD MAKE ME MARRY HIM?!
READY FOR YOUR BOOK SIGNING?
BOOK SIGNING?!
IT'S WHAT NOVELISTS DO— BETWEEN BOOKS. JJ. WOULD KILL YOU IF YOU MISSED IT.
J.J.?
YOUR AGENT.
I CAN'T DO A BOOK SIGNING— I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'VE WRITTEN!!
WHAT TH-- ? MMMPHF
BIG SLOPPY KISSES IN PUBLIC? THINGS HAVE CHANGED!
...to be continued..

REJECTION or A BUTCH-BUTCH BUMMER!

©1995 leanne franson

...So she DOESN'T want to come home and suck my big juicy dick!! Fuck her!!
Well, I do...
If you weren't my buddy, I'd SLUG you!!
I can't believe it!!
It's like two straight boys fucking!!
Two bitches! That's sick!!
HEY!
whaddarya DOING?!! You're another BUTCH!!! What do you think I am? A PERVERT?!
Just 'coz i'm QUEER I ain't no PERVERT!!!
And then..
...if you're willing to forget your homophobic friend there, i've got something lonely in my pants...
DY

GAY comics

IT'S MORE THAN A *LIFESTYLE* . . IT'S AN *ATTITUDE!*

Best Anthology of 1993!
Comic Creators Guild Awards

50% WOMEN - 50% MEN
40 pages each!

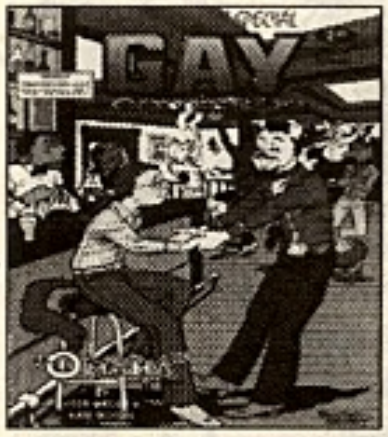
Sam Kieth's
The Maxx
cross-over

Sam Kieth, Daerick Gross, Brandon McKinney, Ivan Velez, Jr., Paige Braddock, Jennifer Camper, John Dennis, Leanne Franson, Joan Hilty, Marc Lynx, Andy Mangels, J.D. March, Steve Matuszak, Stephanie Pennington

Guinan & Bennett's
HeartBreakers
cross-over

Paul Guinan, Anina Bennett, Roberta Gregory, Catherine Doherty, J.A. Fludd, Andy Hartzell, David Kelly, Jon Macy, Beck Main, Andy Mangels, Stephanie Pennington

GAY COMICS BACK ISSUES



Issue #22
Funny Animals!

Reed Waller, Kate Worley, Diane DiMassa, Leanne Franson, Michael Goldberg, J. D. March, Vaughn Frick, Howard Stangroom, Stephen Lowther, Joan Hilty, Kurt Erichsen, Kris Kovick, Mike Curtis, Terrie Smith, Mark Barnard

Issue #21
Flip Book

half issue by award-winner
P. Craig Russell & David Sexton

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The Desert Peach

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¡SABADO GIGANTE!

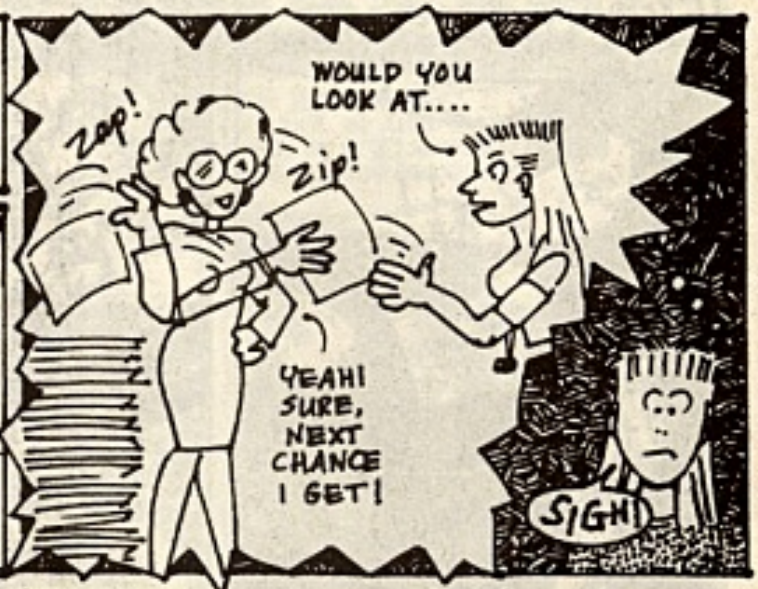
STORY/LETTERING: CAMPER ART: IVAN VELEZ, JR. ©95

IT'S SATURDAY NIGHT! I SHOULD BE OUT HAVING FUN, GOODAMIT!
YO CHACO! GET IN!
DESI! NICE RIDE! WHERE'D YOU PICK IT UP?
ON BROADWAY — I BROKE IN AND WIRED HER UP IN 57 SECONDS! IT'S MY NEW RECORD!
¡BIEN HECHO! AC, STEREO, AND THERE'S A FULL GAS TANK, TOO!
SO — WHADDYA WANNA DO TONIGHT?
LET'S START WITH THIS!
I THINK WHAT WE NEED HERE IS SOME FEMALE COMPANIONSHIP!
FUCK YEAH! I'M HORNY!
I WONDER WHAT THESE PILLS ARE?
GIMME SOME MORE OF THOSE PILLS —
JEEZ, DESI — WE ALREADY TOOK 'EM ALL!
WHY IS A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN LIKE YOU ALL ALONE TONIGHT?
HEY CHICA! YA WANNA FUCK?
SO, LADIES — GIGGLE WHERE'D YOU PARK YOUR CAR?
HOW COME YOU ALWAYS SCORE FIRST?
DON'T WORRY, CHACO — WE'LL SHARE!
OOOH, GIRL! YES!
AAAAAHHHH!
TAKE IT ALL, MAMI!

OK, YOU FREAKS! COME OUTTA THERE NOW! AND I WANNA SEE YOUR HANDS!
BAM!
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
TSK TSK! WHAT A DISGUSTING MESS!
COOL, HUH?
GO! GO! GO!
VUH-ROOM!!
HOT DAMN! LOOK WHAT WAS UNDER THE SEAT!
¡PENDEJOS! GET OUTTA THE WAY!
KRAK!!
YA KNOW, DESI, THIS SHIT'S GETTING REAL TIRED!
YEAH, NEXT WEEKEND LET'S DO SOMETHING EXCITING!

Brigga Dune ©'95

IN: "EDITORIAL COMMENT"



BRIGGA'S CREATIVE MIND RUNS *WILD*

AND WILDER

AND MONDO-WILD

CHANGE THAT SLOPPY PRONOUN.. and.. ADD AN ALLEGORY THERE ... and DIAGRAM EACH SENTENCE IN TRIPLICATE!
IF YOURE A GOOD SLAVE... YOU MAY LIST ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE ME.
FULLY EQUIPPED DUNGEON — WITH PIPED IN MUZAK

HEY, FAGGOT!
WE GOT SOMETHIN' FOR YOU TO SUCK ON.
C'MON, BOY. WE KNOW YOU PANSIES LIKE IT ROUGH.
CAN'T HIDE LONG.
DEAD END.
GLLAAACCK!!
WHAT THE FUCK?
CHUCK!
skriiiickk

OH SHIT!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
YOUR LIFE.
PRIDE
RETALIATION : PT 1
WRITTEN BY ANDY MANSELS
ILLUSTRATED BY BRANDON MCKINNEY
LETTERED BY MAC PERFORMA
TRENT CONLIN
1960
1996
"FACING THE FIRE
ROUD AND STRONG"

I'M SORRY, TRENT.
FOR WHAT? THE FLOWERS ARE FABULOUS AND THE HEADSTONE'S . . . WELL, IT'S NICE.
NOT TOO FEY, WITH JUST A TOUCH OF THE DICHOTOMY THAT MARS MY LIFE.
WHAT? HOW ARE YOU HERE?
PLEASE.
TRENT CO
YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT WHAT'S BEYOND THE WORLD OF THE LIVING.
WHY ARE YOU SURPRISED TO SEE ME?
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME? BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE.
YOU COULD HAVE. . .
TRENT, YOU WEREN'T READY TO HEAR THE TRUTH ABOUT ME.
AND YOU WOULDN'T HAVE WANTED ME TO CHANGE YOU . . . I COULDN'T!
GUESS YOU KNEW WHAT I WAS READY TO HEAR BETTER THAN I DID, HUH?
IS THAT ONE OF YOUR POWERS I DON'T KNOW ABOUT?
LIKE THE OTHERS . . .
TOO LATE NOW.
TRENT!

TRENT!
IS EVERYTHING ALL *RIGHT*? I HEARD YOU *YELL*.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. YOU CAN LEAVE.
I'LL JUST BE *LEAVING* NOW, SIR.
SOMETHING DISTURBED YOUR DREAMS.
YEAH. I WAS AT A CEMETERY AND *TRENT*...
...HE WAS SO *ANGRY* WITH ME.
HE'S NOT ANGRY *NOW*. HE IS STILL HIDDEN WITH LAYERS OF HIS MIND PROTECTING HIMSELF FROM THE PAIN AND TRAUMA AS HIS BODY HEALS.
HE KNOWS YOU'RE *HERE*.

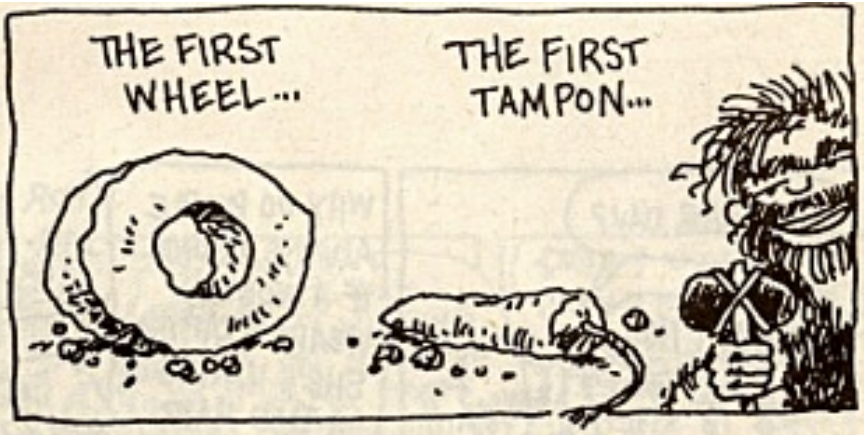
CAN HE HEAR ME?
IN A SENSE, YES. BUT NOT IN A LINEAR WAY. HE FEELS WHAT YOU SAY MORE THAN HE UNDERSTANDS THE WORDS.
CAN YOU TALK TO HIM, KRISTOFF?
NO MORE SO THAN YOU CAN. AND IT IS WHAT HE FEELS FROM YOU THAT KEEPS HIM GOING.
HOW COME YOU WEREN'T WITH HIM?
I'M ONLY HERE NOW BECAUSE YOU ASKED ME TO WATCH OVER TRENT.
I AM YOUR KROVEN TEN'LA. I AM NOT HIS. HE IS NOT WHAT YOU ARE, NOR WHAT I AM.
IF HE WERE, HE MIGHT NOT BE IN THIS PLACE.
I CAN'T. NOT NOW. I'M NOT SURE I EVER CAN.
ROSE KNEW THAT.
YES, SHE DID. AND SHE MADE YOUR INACTION POSSIBLE. EVEN NOW, SHE MAKES IT POSSIBLE.
YOU SAY THAT AS IF YOU DON'T APPROVE.
AGAIN, I AM YOUR TEN'LA. IT IS NOT MY PLACE TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE. I AM HERE TO PROTECT, SERVE, COUNSEL . .
THEN WHAT IS YOUR COUNSEL NOW?
WHEN HE AWAKENS, YOU MUST TELL HIM THE TRUTH.

EIGHTEENTH PRECINCT
DETECTIVE MORFTON SPEAKING.
"QUID PRO QUO, CLARICE."
I GOT YOUR QUID RIGHT HERE, CHAMBERLIN.
NOT THAT I'D WANT IT, YOU KNOW.
YEAH, WELL, IF YOU EVER CHANGE YOUR MIND, WHAT'S UP?
I'VE GOT AN INFORMANT WITH SOME INFORMATION ON THOSE THREE GUYS THAT GOT MASSACRED IN THAT ALLEY LAST NIGHT. SAYS HE'S AN EYEWITNESS, AND I BELIEVE HIM.
SO WHY ARE YOU LETTING ME KNOW? WHY NOT BROADCAST HIS STORY?
YOU KNOW ME BETTER THAN THAT. IF IT'S SOMETHING SENSITIVE I ALWAYS CALL YOU. AND THIS IS SENSITIVE.
YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO CALL IN YOUR GAY & LESBIAN LIASON, AND THE CHIEF IS PROBABLY GOING TO WANT TO GET THE MAYOR INVOLVED. THOSE GUYS WERE THE GAY BASHERS WHO PUT THAT FIREMAN IN THE HOSPITAL A FEW WEEKS AGO. THEY PROBABLY ALSO DID A LOT OF THE OTHER GAY BASHINGS IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS.
SO WE MAY HAVE SOME VIGILANTE JUSTICE ON OUR HANDS, HUH?
WORSE. MY EYE-WITNESS CLAIMS THAT THE GUY WHO DID IT WAS THE FIREMAN'S SUPER-HERO BOYFRIEND.
HE SAYS PRYDE KILLED THEM.
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE.

Womyn's History 101:

HOW MEN REALLY GOT THE UPPER HAND....

©Paige Braddock 1995



Period Survival Guide:

5 EASY WAYS TO CONCEAL A TAMPON WHILE TRAVELING THROUGH A CROWD OF STRANGERS ON YOUR WAY TO THE LADIES ROOM.

1. TUCKED INTO THE FRONT OF YOUR PANTS LIKE A GUN.
2. IN YOUR SOCK.
3. BEHIND YOUR EAR LIKE A CIGARETTE.
4. IN YOUR BRA.
5. LIKE A BREATH MINT.
©Paige Braddock 1995

Question 1:

WHY DO YOU ALWAYS GET MAD AT PEOPLE FOR ASKING IF YOU'RE PMS-ING WHEN YOU ARE?

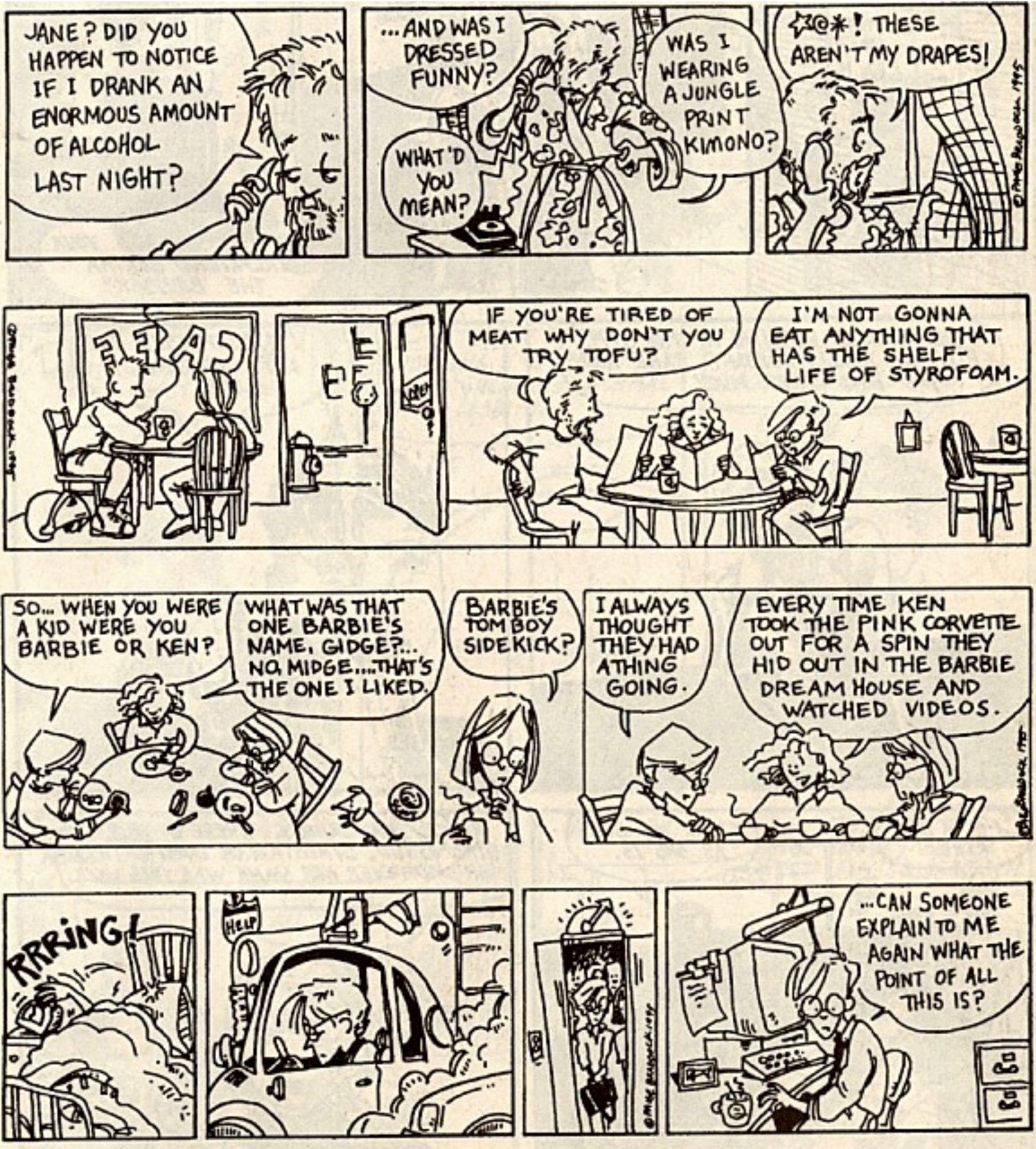
LISTEN, BUTT FACE... THIS IS NOT PMS...
I'M LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME. SO JUST RING UP THE DAMN CHOCOLATE!
DOG FOOD
EXPRES
©Paige Braddock 1995

PMS:

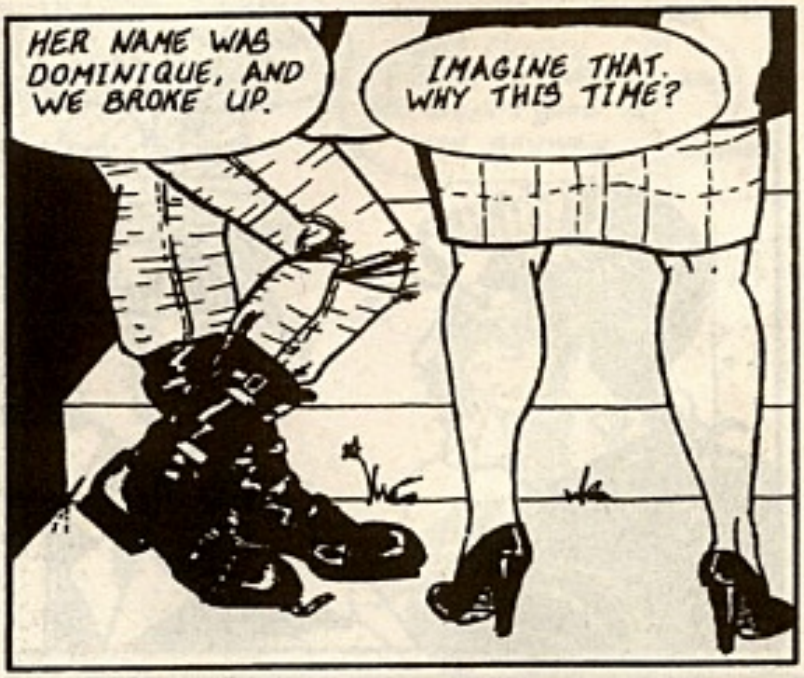
AN EMOTIONAL GUIDE FOR LOVED ONES...

©Paige Braddock 1995

BAD HAIR DAY?
No.
WHY DO PEOPLE ALWAYS ASSUME IF A WOMAN WEARS A CAP THAT SHE'S HAVING A BAD HAIR DAY?!
FOR YOUR INFORMATION MR. NOSEY PANTS.... I JUST NEED A HAIRCUT.
... I WAS GETTING A REPETITIVE STRESS INJURY FROM SHAKING MY HAIR OUT OF MY EYES.
YOU READ A LOT DON'T YOU?
...ESPECIALLY WHEN I'M SINGLE...
NO DATE
...THE WORSE MY SOCIAL LIFE, THE MORE I READ, THE SMARTER I FEEL, THE MORE STUPID EVERY-ONE SEEMS.
IT'S A VICIOUS CYCLE OF DATELESSNESS.
DO YOU THINK OUR GENERATION HAS AN UNHEALTHY ATTACHMENT TO ITS PETS?
ACTUALLY, MY EX-GIRLFRIEND DID SAY I GAVE MORE ATTENTION TO MY DOG THAN TO HER....
I GUESS IT PAID OFF...
...YOUR DOG STILL LIVES WITH YOU.
SOMETIMES WHEN I'M AT WORK.... FEELING LONESOME, FEELING BLUE.... I WISH I COULD CALL HOME AND TALK TO MY DOG.
THE ANSWERING MACHINE WOULD COME ON AND I'D SAY.... SCOUT, IF YOU'RE THERE PICK UP..
OF COURSE SHE CAN NEVER PICK UP BECAUSE SHE HAS NO THUMBS.

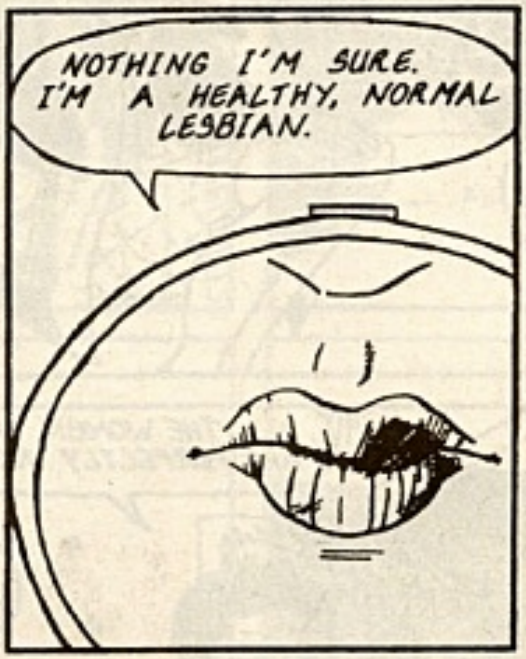

JANE? DID YOU HAPPEN TO NOTICE IF I DRANK AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF ALCOHOL LAST NIGHT?
...AND WAS I DRESSED FUNNY?
WHAT'D YOU MEAN?
WAS I WEARING A JUNGLE PRINT KIMONO?
☆@*! THESE AREN'T MY DRAPES!
IF YOU'RE TIRED OF MEAT WHY DON'T YOU TRY TOFU?
I'M NOT GONNA EAT ANYTHING THAT HAS THE SHELF-LIFE OF STYROFOAM.
SO... WHEN YOU WERE A KID WERE YOU BARBIE OR KEN?
WHAT WAS THAT ONE BARBIE'S NAME, GIDGE?... NO, MIDGE... THAT'S THE ONE I LIKED.
BARBIE'S TOMBOY SIDEKICK?
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THEY HAD A THING GOING.
EVERY TIME KEN TOOK THE PINK CORVETTE OUT FOR A SPIN THEY HID OUT IN THE BARBIE DREAM HOUSE AND WATCHED VIDEOS.
RRRING!
HELP
...CAN SOMEONE EXPLAIN TO ME AGAIN WHAT THE POINT OF ALL THIS IS?

THREE CIGARETTES IN AN ASHTRAY
©Stephanie M. Pennington 1994
GOOD EVENING ROBYN.
Blue Whale
HEY IQ. WHERE'S YOUR GIRLFRIEND BERTHA THE BRUISER?
SHE'S STILL WORKING AT THE GYM. PLUS SHE REALLY DOESN'T CARE FOR THE INN THAT MUCH.
FAT COW!
I'M SURPRISED SHE LETS YOU OUT ALONE.
I'M A BIG GIRL.
NOT AS BIG AS SHE IS.
HA HA, VERY FUNNY. WHERE'S YOUR GIRLFRIEND, SYNESTRA OR DOMINATRIX OR WHATEVER HER NAME WAS THIS WEEK.


HER NAME WAS DOMINIQUE, AND WE BROKE UP.
IMAGINE THAT. WHY THIS TIME?

SHE WANTED ME TO BURN HER WITH CIGARETTES. I'M NOT INTO THAT.
COULD'VE FOOLED ME.
359
FREE YOUR MIND

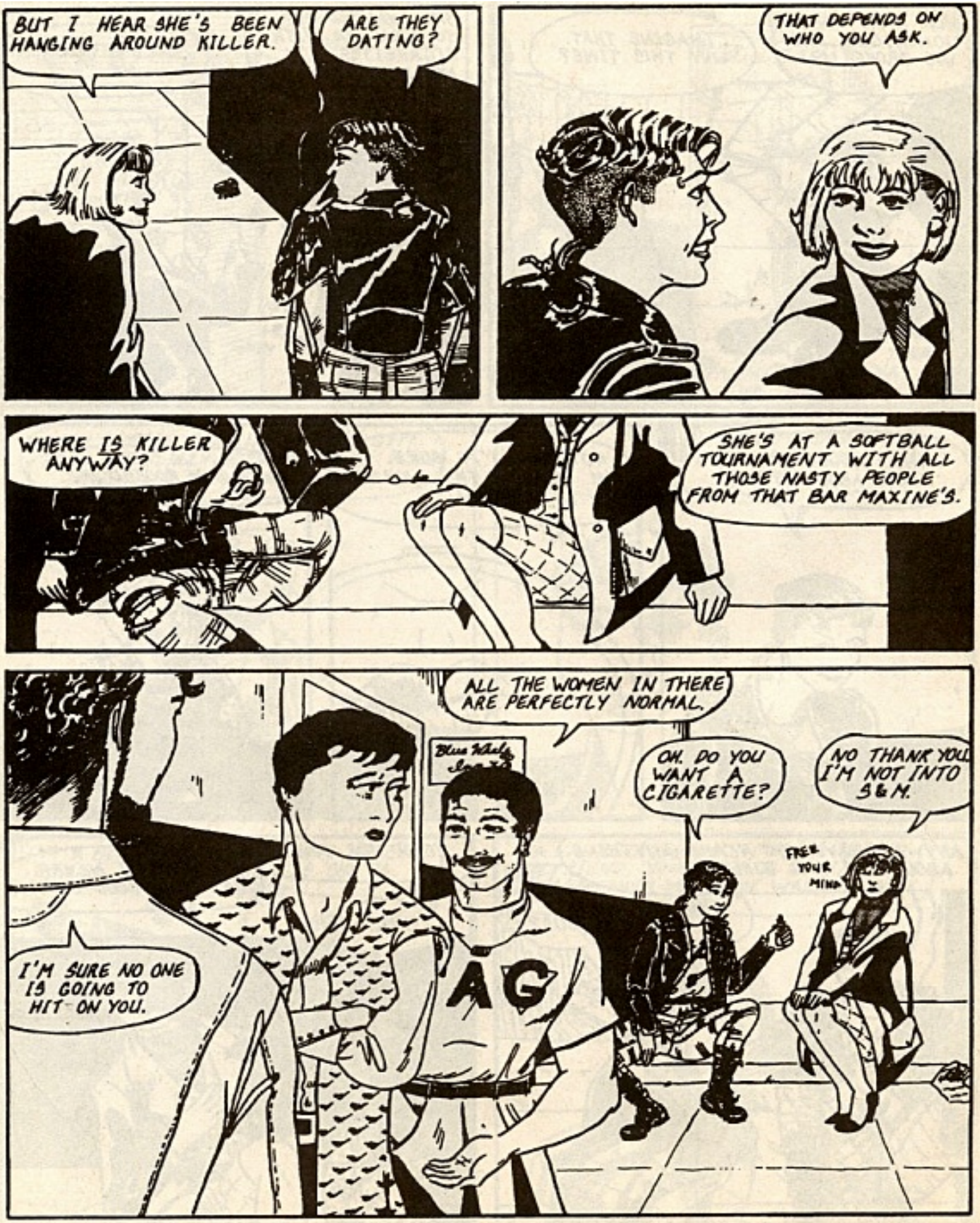
WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?


NOTHING I'M SURE. I'M A HEALTHY, NORMAL LESBIAN.

COULD'VE FOOLED ME.
I WUZ HERE

ANYWAY, HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THE NEW GIRL?
THE ONE WITH ALL THE TATTOOS?

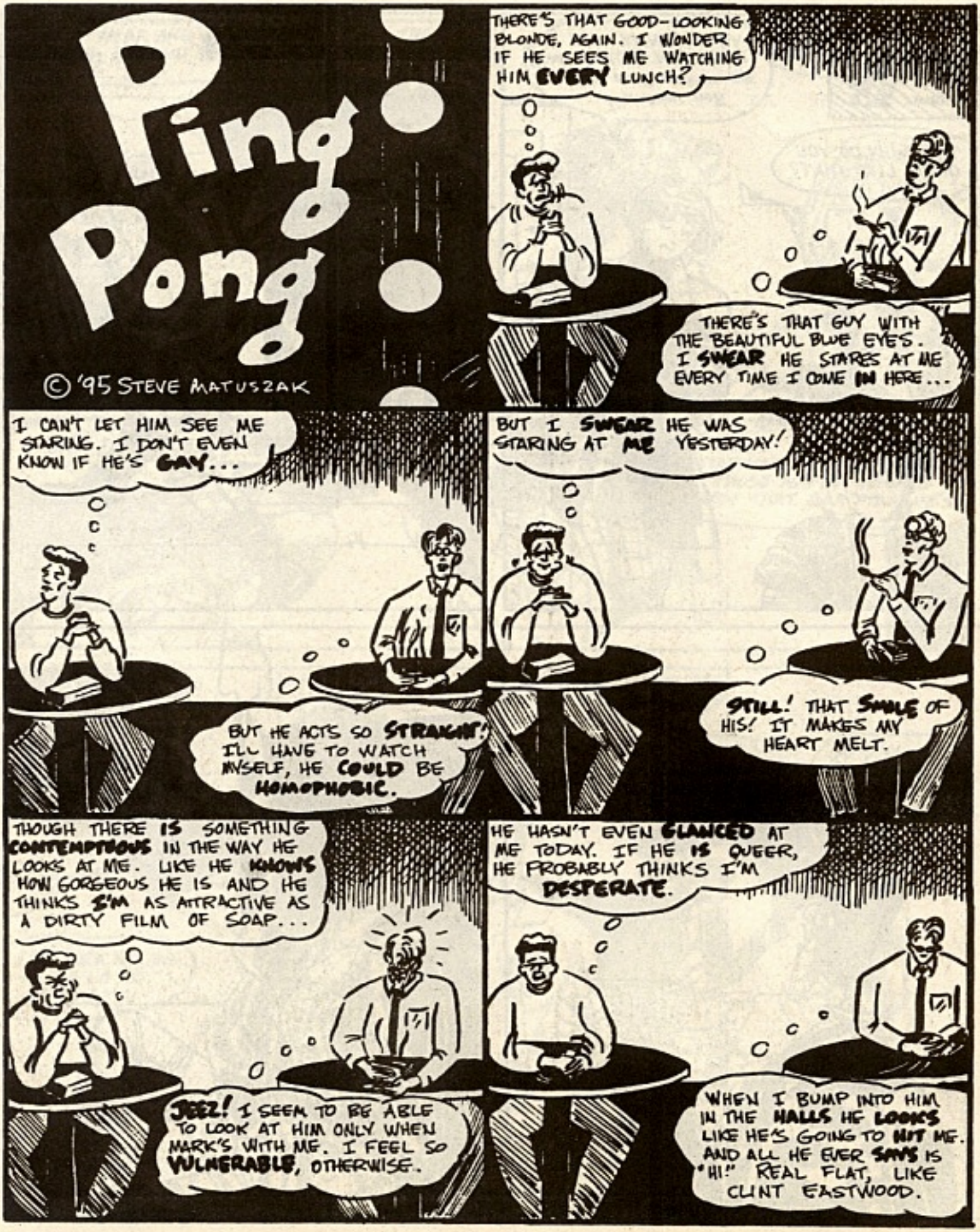
YEAH HER, ALEX.
YOU KNOW I NEVER GET ANY GOOD GOSSIP.
BUT?

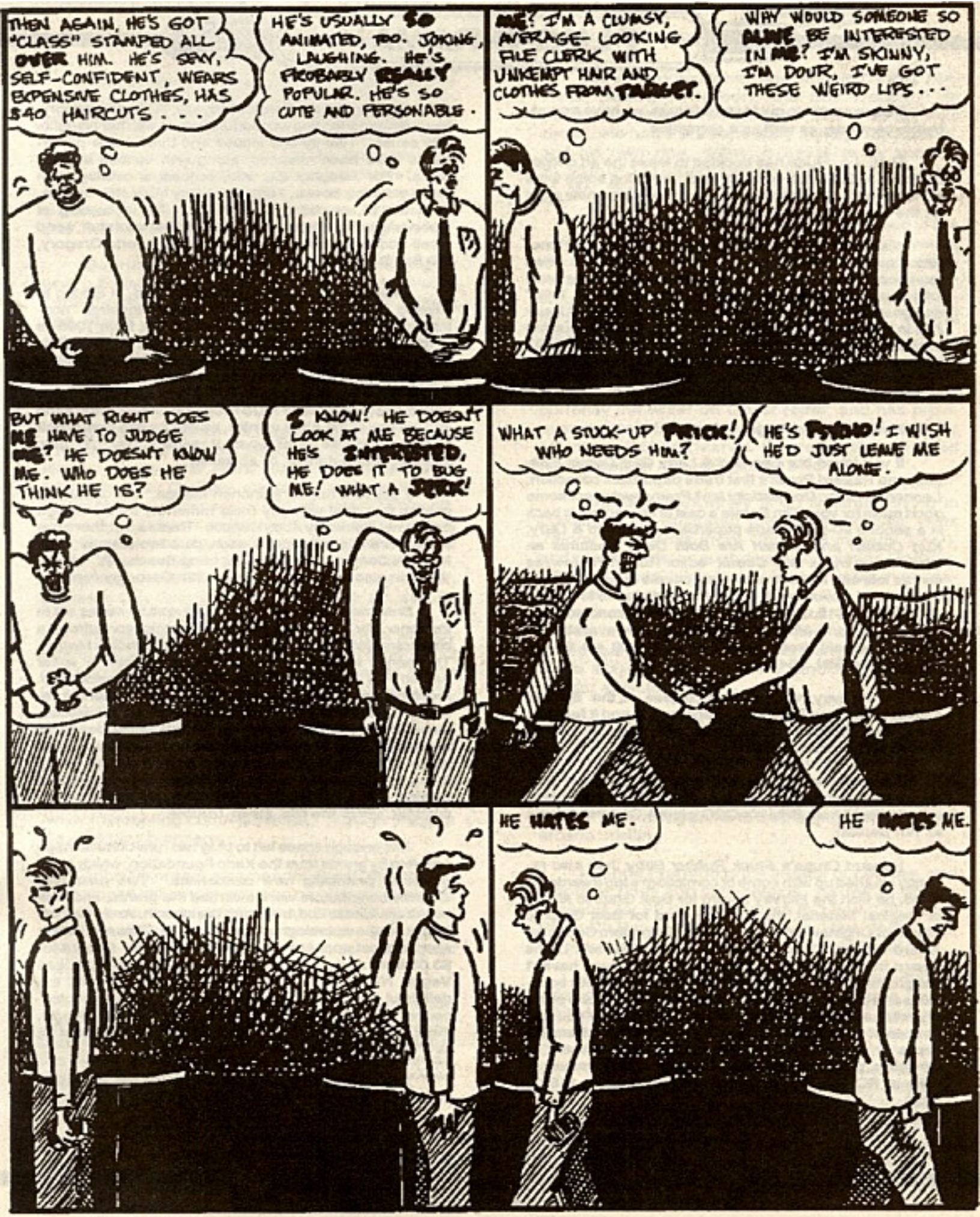

BUT I HEAR SHE'S BEEN HANGING AROUND KILLER.
ARE THEY DATING?
THAT DEPENDS ON WHO YOU ASK.
WHERE IS KILLER ANYWAY?
SHE'S AT A SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT WITH ALL THOSE NASTY PEOPLE FROM THAT BAR MAXINE'S.
ALL THE WOMEN IN THERE ARE PERFECTLY NORMAL.
OH. DO YOU WANT A CIGARETTE?
NO THANK YOU. I'M NOT INTO S&M.
FREE YOUR MIND
I'M SURE NO ONE IS GOING TO HIT ON YOU.
AG

VERY FUNNY. I'M GOING IN NOW... hey, She wasn't good for you anyway.
THEN WHY DO YOU DRESS LIKE THAT?
FREE YOUR MIND

FREE YOUR MIND

END


Ping Pong!
© '95 STEVE MATUSZAK
THERE'S THAT GOOD-LOOKING BLONDE, AGAIN. I WONDER IF HE SEES ME WATCHING HIM EVERY LUNCH?
THERE'S THAT GUY WITH THE BEAUTIFUL BLUE EYES. I SWEAR HE STARES AT ME EVERY TIME I COME IN HERE...
I CAN'T LET HIM SEE ME STARING. I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF HE'S GAY...
BUT I SWEAR HE WAS STARING AT ME YESTERDAY!
BUT HE ACTS SO STRAIGHT! I'LL HAVE TO WATCH MYSELF, HE COULD BE HOMOPHOBIC.
STILL! THAT SMILE OF HIS! IT MAKES MY HEART MELT.
THOUGH THERE IS SOMETHING CONTEMPTUOUS IN THE WAY HE LOOKS AT ME. LIKE HE KNOWS HOW GORGEOUS HE IS AND HE THINKS I'M AS ATTRACTIVE AS A DIRTY FILM OF SOAP...
HE HASN'T EVEN GLANCED AT ME TODAY. IF HE IS QUEER, HE PROBABLY THINKS I'M DESPERATE.
JEEZ! I SEEM TO BE ABLE TO LOOK AT HIM ONLY WHEN MARK'S WITH ME. I FEEL SO VULNERABLE, OTHERWISE.
WHEN I BUMP INTO HIM IN THE HALLS HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOING TO HIT ME. AND ALL HE EVER SAYS IS "HI!" REAL FLAT, LIKE CLINT EASTWOOD.


THEN AGAIN, HE'S GOT "CLASS" STAMPED ALL OVER HIM. HE'S SEXY, SELF-CONFIDENT, WEARS EXPENSIVE CLOTHES, HAS $40 HAIRCUTS . . .
HE'S USUALLY SO ANIMATED, TOO. JOKING, LAUGHING. HE'S PROBABLY REALLY POPULAR. HE'S SO CUTE AND PERSONABLE.
ME? I'M A CLUMSY, AVERAGE-LOOKING FILE CLERK WITH UNKEMPT HAIR AND CLOTHES FROM TARGET.
WHY WOULD SOMEONE SO ALIVE BE INTERESTED IN ME? I'M SKINNY, I'M DOUR, I'VE GOT THESE WEIRD LIPS . . .
BUT WHAT RIGHT DOES HE HAVE TO JUDGE ME? HE DOESN'T KNOW ME. WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?
I KNOW! HE DOESN'T LOOK AT ME BECAUSE HE'S INTERESTED, HE DOES IT TO BUG ME! WHAT A JERK!
WHAT A STUCK-UP PRICK! WHO NEEDS HIM?
HE'S PSYCHO! I WISH HE'D JUST LEAVE ME ALONE.
HE HATES ME.
HE HATES ME.

PLUG-O-RAMA!

Before we get to our featured plugs, we have a good-bye to be made, as well as a correction.

First, J.A. Fludd has decided to leave the art chores on *Pride* due to other commitments, including some work in Hollywood. We wish him well, and welcome new artist for the strip, Brandon McKinney.

Gay Comics covers are printed two issues at a time, which can sometimes lead to odd inconsistencies when the second issue interiors are printed. Such is the case with this very issue. You may note the "Fall 1996" designation on the front cover, and the promise of issue #25 in late 1996. Obviously we ran into some production problems, and this issue is reaching you in early 1997 instead. ***Gay Comics #25***, all monster 80 pages of it, has been solicited for publication in April or May, so you can look forward to seeing it then!

Now, on to the Plugs!

If you loved our *Leonard & Larry* ***Gay Comix Special***, and Palliard Press's first trade paperback collection, *Leonard & Larry: Domesticity Isn't Pretty*, we've got some good news for you! Tim Barela's cast of characters is back in a second 90-page trade paperback. *Leonard & Larry: Kurt Cobain and Mozart Are Both Dead* features an introduction by ex ***Gay Comix*** -editor Robert Triptow, as well as lots and lots of the funniest couple of leather bears in the world. *Leonard & Larry: Domesticity Isn't Pretty* is available for $15.00 postpaid, while the second volume, *Kurt Cobain and Mozart Are Both Dead*, is available for $12.00 postpaid, from Palliard Press, 1309 4th St SE, Minneapolis, MN, 55414.

By the way, we still have copies of the ***Special*** available from our back issue department, and it features some material not in either paperback! See the center-spread ad for ordering info.

And in the awards category, *Leonard & Larry* won the 1995 Comics Creators Guild Award for "Best Strip in a Periodical," from Britain's CCG group! Congratulations to Tim Barela!

Howard Cruse's *Stuck Rubber Baby* has also recently cleaned up with some of comicdom's top awards. In 1996, he won the Harvey Award for Best Graphic Album of Original Material, the Eisner Award for Best Graphic Album of Original Material, the United Kingdom Comic Art Award for Best Graphic Novel, and the German Luchs Award from the literary newspaper, *Zeit*. If you haven't bought this fantastic work yet, get on down to your book-store and pick it up. If you're lucky, you can find one of the original hardcovers from DC/Paradox Press, or you can get one of the twin softcover editions from either Paradox Press or HarperCollins. For original art from any of Howard's projects (including *Wendel* and *Barefootz*), write to PO Box 728223, Jackson Heights, NY 11372-8223.

Another of ***Gay Comics'*** royalty, Roberta Gregory, has been experiencing wonderful success with her *Naughty Bits* series. Twenty-one issues and three trade paperbacks have been released, along with various spin-off items. For *Naughty Bits* info, request a catalog from Fantagraphics Books, 7563 Lake City Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115, or call 800-657-1100. For a catalog of Roberta's self-published comics and other cool stuff, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Roberta Gregory, PO Box 27438, Seattle, WA 98125.

A new comic company, World Comics, is aiming to expand the market with material geared towards "non-traditional" markets. Their first publication, from 1995, is a 16-page AIDS awareness comic starring the M.A.C.S. team in a full-color story! Send a large self-addressed stamped envelope, plus $1 (or more) to World Comics, 11865 SW 95th Ave., Tigard, OR 97223. They'll donate your money to Cascade AIDS Project in Oregon, and send you out one of the AIDS comics, as well as info about their cool line of books for all types of readers: boy, girl, gay, straight, coffee-drinker, or abstainer.

If you're a fan of "bishonen manga," the Japanese comics that deal with gay male romance, try the *Tough Love* zine-comics by Abby Denson. These and other zine-comics are available for $1 each, plus two stamps, from MaRVN Comics, 95 Florida St., Long Beach, NY 11561. You can also email them at evem88b@prodigy.com

Breakneck Blvd. is a modern adventure series set in the inner city. Sometimes a crime comic, sometimes a character study, *Breakneck* is the work of Timothy Markin. The series features a regular gay character, a writer named Pall Blighter. Three issues of *Breakneck Blvd.* received low distribution, but Slave Labor Graphics recently picked up the series and published six issues. Issue #5 is an especially affecting story as Pall recounts his relationship with a closeted gay cop. The book is on hiatus currently, but you can get back issue by giving Slave Labor a call at 1-800-866-8929 and requesting a catalog. The series is set to return from Slave Labor this summer, under the title, *Deep Trouble*.

Just enough space left to plug two new comics made possible by grants from the Xeric Foundation, which gives grants to promising new cartoonists. Two past ***Gay Comics*** contributors were awarded the grants, and their books are hard to find, but worth the search. Andy Hartzell brings us the autobiographical *Bread & Circuses*, with a special guest appearance by Sally Struthers. Order it for $3.00 from Andy Hartzell, 6130 W Flamingo #312, Las Vegas, NV 89121. And David Kelly has released the delightful *Steven's Comics #3*, about a gay boy's adolescence. It's also $3.00 from DK Press, 1122 E. Pike St. #992, Seattle, WA 98122, or you can email David at DKPress@aol.com.

That's all the plugs for this issue. We'll see you soon, in ***Gay Comics #25***! Have a Gay old time!

Andy Mangels - editor Gay Comics
PO Box 3226, Portland, OR 97208-3226

CONTRIBUTORS

Sam Kieth is the creator of *The Maxx*, the best-selling comic book from Image Comics. *The Maxx* was an animated series on MTV, and is available on video, with a Paramount movie in the works. Sam has worked on other popular series, illustrating the original issues of *Sandman*, as well as stories for the *Incredible Hulk* and *Wolverine*, among others. This is not only Sam's *Gay Comics* premiere, but also the first *The Maxx* story not published by Image!

Daerick Gross, Sr. is the award-winning artist who painted *The Vampire Lestat* (still in print as a trade paperback). His other work includes *Forbidden Planet* and *Queen of the Damned, Batman: Two-Face*, various Marvel projects, and *Bloodwulf* for Image. In the late 70's, he was the cartoonist of "Kelly Kodick," for *Playgirl*. He previously painted the back cover for *Gay Comix* #14.

Andy Mangels edits *Gay Comics* (since issue #14), and has written various comics, including *Bloodwulf* for Image, *Star Wars: The Essential Guide To Characters* for Del Rey, and is the writer for the online interactive comic series, *RE-Man* from Microsoft. His writing appears regularly in *Star Wars Galaxy* and *Fan* magazines. He's also the publisher and editor of an erotic magazine of uniformed men, called *IN UNIFORM The Magazine*. He's written stories in *Gay Comix/Comics* #14, 16-18, 20, and 22.

Paige Braddock polished her knack for whimsy during her youth in the rural South, where there isn't much to do but doodle. She currently works as the Graphics Editor for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. Her cartoon work has appeared in *Girlfriends, The Blade, LA Girl Guide, Hysteria, Deneuve, The Woman Rebel*, and *Dyke Strippers*. To contact her, write PO Box 1115, Atlanta, GA 30301, or via email to janetoon@mindspring.com. And for the electronic savvy, you can get to "See Jane" on the Net at http://www.mindspring.com/~janetoon. This is Paige's *Gay Comics* premiere.

John Dennis is a tremendously handsome, yet (amazingly) still single guy who can barely cook, but boy can he draw guys in tights and capes! John has pencilled and/or inked for nearly every major comics publisher in North America. This is his virginal voyage into the pages of *Gay Comics*.

Marc Lynx is a two-stepper and software tester from the San Francisco Bay Area. This *Gay Comics* marks his first published comics writing, but under the name Jim Drew, he has been drawing editorial cartoons for the gay and lesbian newspaper *OutNOW!* since early 1993.

Stephanie Pennington is a San Franciscan currently living in Augsburg, Germany, which doesn't have any good Mexican restaurants. As a child, she could never decide who she more desperately wanted to be: Mr. Steed or Ms. Peel. This is her second *Gay Comics* story, following her premiere in #23.

Steve Matuszak has had work in *Caliber Presents, Dadaville* (Caliber), and *Boy Trouble*. He worked six years in Minneapolis' stand-up comedy circuit. He had a previous story in *Gay Comics* #18, and his own zine, *Killjoy*, is available by sending $1.50 to 3513 Dupont Ave. S., Suite 302, Minneapolis, MN 55408.

Jennifer Camper lives in New York, and is the cartoonist behind the "Camper" collection known as *Rude Girls and Dangerous Women* (Laugh Lines Press). She is currently working on her new comic strip, "subGURLZ." She's a long-timer here, having had work in *Gay Comix* #2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, and *Gay Comics* #14, 15, 17, and 20.

Ivan Velez, Jr. is the writer and artist of *Tales of the Closet*, a ten-issue series about gay youth. He is currently the writer on *Ghost Rider*, and has previously written *Blood Syndicate*, and other titles for Milestone, DC, and Marvel. He previously cartooned two stories for *Gay Comics* #15-16.

Brandon McKinney is an illustrator living in Oakland. He illustrated the upcoming *Star Wars Trilogy* pulp books (from Chronicle in early 1997), and was the artist on such diverse comics as *Godzilla, ElfQuest*, and *Child's Play*. He also works in animation, with his character, *Chainsaw Bob* appearing in several animation festivals and a Converse/Foot Locker commercial. His upcoming animated work will be seen on HBO's *Spawn* cartoon next year. This is his *Gay Comics* premiere, and he is the new regular artist for *Pride*.

J.D. March is a bi-dyke living in the Bay Area. She has been a cartoonist since 1983 and has been published in *Lesbian Contradiction, Gay Comics* #14, 18, and 22, and a variety of smaller zines. She is a survivor of the military lifestyle, an urban witch, and considered by some to be playing with the major arcana missing.

Leanne Franson is the creator of *Lilianne*, and a host of zines and mini-comics. Issues #1-31 are available for $2.00 apiece from PO Box 274, Succ. Place Du Parc, Montreal, Quebec, H2W 2N8. Look for more of her work in *Gay Comics* #18 and 22.

Joan Hilty super-powered and mere-mortal dyke dramas have appeared in the *Village Voice, Girljock, Real Girl, Wimmen's Comics*, and in a special all-*Immola* issue of *Oh!* That *Immola* special, *Oh!* #8, can be ordered for $4.45 from B Publications, POB 41030, Cordova Bay Road, Victoria, BC, V8Y 2KO, Canada. Joan works as an editor in mainstream comics in New York City, where she actually enjoys playing Nagging-Lesbian-Feminist to a buildingful of nice fanboys. Her work has previously been seen in *Gay Comix/Comics* #13, 14, 18, 20, and 22.

Peigé BRADDOCK
Jennifer CAMPBELL
John DENNIS
Leanne FRANSON
Dwerick CROSS SR.
Joan HILTY
Sam KIETH
Marc LYON
J.D. MARCH
Andy MANGELS
Steve MATUSZAK
Stephanie PENNINGTON
Ivan VELEZ JR.